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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,717	08/07/2006	Allan Tanghoj	2003007-US	6823
69289	7590	05/05/2010	EXAMINER	
COOPLAST A/S Attention: Corporate Patents Holtegård 1 DK-3050 Humlebæk, DENMARK			HALL, DEANNA K	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	3767			
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
05/05/2010	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/552,717	Applicant(s) TANGHOJ, ALLAN
	Examiner DEANNA K. HALL	Art Unit 3767

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2010.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,7-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 4-6,15 and 17-20 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/95/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgments

1. This office action is in response to the reply filed on 2/7/10.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.
3. Additionally, the objections to the drawings and the specification are withdrawn.

The 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 4-5, 15 and 17 is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1-3, 9-14, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (US 2008/0045921) ("Anderson").**

Anderson discloses: a catheter assembly and method comprising a container 12, a catheter handle 40 having a first interlocking mechanism [0045] and at least one catheter element 28 with a proximal end adapted for insertion into the urinary canal and an opposite distal end having a second interlocking mechanism 38 [0045], the container 12 having a cavity 18 adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said

catheter element, Fig. 1, said catheter handle adapted to be interlocked with said catheter element via engagement of the first and second interlocking mechanisms [0045], the handle 40 comprising a sleeve section 48 adapted to surround a portion of said container characterized in that the handle is further adapted to be detached from the catheter element and from the container, [0044, 0045].

The catheter handle 40 is attached to said container assembly [0045] and is shorter than said container or shorter than said catheter element Fig. 1.

The container 12 includes a sealing means element for sealing the cavity 18 [0069].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Pedersen et al. (US 6,355,004) (“Pedersen”).**

Anderson discloses the invention as substantially claimed (see above). However, Anderson does not directly disclose the catheter assembly comprising a lubricating medium or at least a portion of the catheter element having a hydrophilic coating. Pedersen, in the analogous art, teaches the catheter assembly having a lubricating medium C5L66-C6L4 or a hydrophilic coating C5L4-11. Therefore, it would

have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a hydrophilic coating or a lubricant on the catheter element to aid in insertion into the body.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 4 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious at the time of the invention the combination of elements of a distal section of the catheter element having at least one protruding part and the proximal compartment of the cavity having a distal opening zone with an exclusion element adapted to exclude the distal section of the catheter element from entering the proximal compartment.

9. Claims 5-6, 15, 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEANNA K. HALL whose telephone number is (571)272-2819. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 11:00am-7:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on 571-272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Deanna K. Hall/
Examiner, Art Unit 3767
4/28/10
/Kevin C. Sirmons/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767